



## Bear cubs are never alone

If you see bear cubs, immediately walk back a good way down the path you just followed. The mother is nearby and will defend her young. Therefore, do not stop to take photos or to get closer to the bears! This is the most dangerous situation you could face when it comes to encounters with Alpine bears.



## Mock attacks

In Europe, bear attacks on people are mock attacks or defensive attacks. A mock attack means a bear will run towards a person and stop abruptly a few metres in front of them. Bears are most concerned about the safety of their young and try to turn “attackers” away. Stand still, stay as quiet as possible and wait for the bear to leave.

www.alpenverein.it    www.alpenverein.li    www.ffcam.fr  
 www.alpenverein.at    www.cai.it    www.sac-cas.ch  
 www.alpenverein.de    www.pzs.si    www.club-arc-alpin.eu

## Do not follow bear tracks

If you discover bear tracks in the mud or in the snow, do not follow them. Take a different route in order to avoid running into a bear.

Front paw

Hind paw

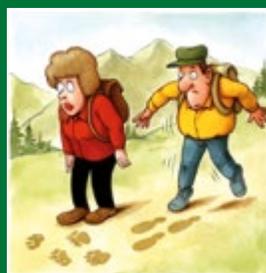


Photo: Office for Hunting and Fishing Grisons

## Report bear tracks and sightings

**South Tyrol:** T. +39 328 8745844  
**Trentino:** T. +39 335 7705966  
**Italy outside South Tyrol and Trentino:**  
 T. +39 06 50072645, +39 051 6512232  
**Germany/Bavaria:** T. +49 9281 1800 4640  
 fachstelle-gb@lfu.bayern.de  
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**France:** T. +33 5 62 00 81 08, stgaudens@oncfs.gouv.fr  
**Liechtenstein:** olivier.naegele@llv.li  
**Austria:** www.beutegreifer.at/categories/ansprechpersonen

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# Hiking in bear areas

Tips on appropriate behaviour



## Dear hikers and mountain lovers,

the Alpine associations encourage a relationship of respect between humans and wildlife. As soon as wild animals scent or see people, they will usually turn back, even brown bears and wolves. For some years now, both species have been repopulating some areas of the Alps. Wolves pose no threat to people.

Incidents with a bear may occur in rare cases, most frequently with a mother bear when she has cubs with her. Every bear reacts differently.

These recommendations offer general guidance on safety when coming into contact with bears.



Photo: shutterstock.com/ficochet64



### Bears in view

Bears usually sense humans very early, thanks to their sense of smell. In rare cases, a bear will not hear or smell hikers or joggers. The bear will then react with shock or curiosity. Walk backwards slowly, leaving an escape route for the bear. Do not throw items such as sticks, rocks, rucksacks or baskets towards the bear.



### Keep dogs on a lead!

Keep your dog on a lead when hiking in bear areas because dogs may sense the smell of a bear, follow the trail and track down the bear. Dogs will then run back to their owners in fright and hide behind them. If the bear follows them, he will come across their owners.



### Bears avoid people

Bears have an exceptional sense of smell and hearing. A bear has sensed you long before you can see him, and in most cases will run away.

### Waste creates scavengers

Leave picnic and barbecue areas clean. Bears and other wildlife are quick learners and will come to such "feasting areas" regularly. They associate organic waste with the smell of humans and become bolder. These so-called scavengers may get closer to farms and villages.

### Habitat map

- Core habitat:** year round habitat and breeding area
- Roaming area:** occasional bear presence

